

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 11-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kagawa et al. (US 6,265,034) in view of Sekine et al. (US 6,313,894).

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kagawa et al. in view of Sekine et al. and Hiji et al. (US 5,872,609).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant has amended claim 11 to further define the invention. Accordingly, claims 11-18 and 22 are pending for further consideration.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kagawa et al. (US 6,265,034) in view of Sekine et al. (US 6,313,894), and claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kagawa et al. in view of Sekine et al. and Hiji et al. (US 5,872,609). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as being based upon a combination of references that neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features recited in amended independent claim 11, and hence dependent claims 12-18 and 22.

Independent claim 11, as amended, recites a liquid crystal layer “having a photo-reactant material and a liquid crystal, wherein the photo-reactant material and the liquid crystal form a polymer network.” In contrast to Applicant’s claimed invention, Applicant respectfully asserts that neither Kagawa et al. nor Sekine et al., whether taken singly or combined, teaches or suggests a liquid crystal material layer “having a photo-reactant material and a liquid crystal,”

that “form a polymer network,” as recited by amended independent claim 11, and hence dependent claims 12-18 and 22.

For example, although Kagawa et al. discloses a liquid crystal layer containing a photo-curable resin, Kagawa et al. is completely silent with respect to formation of a liquid crystal material layer having polymer network using a photo-reactant material and a liquid crystal. Furthermore, Sekine et al. is completely silent with respect to a photo-reactant material and a liquid crystal used to form a liquid crystal material layer having a polymer network. Moreover, Applicant respectfully asserts that Hiji et al. fails to remedy the deficiencies of Kagawa et al. and Sekine et al. since Hiji et al. also fails to teach or suggest a liquid crystal material layer having a photo-reactant material and a liquid crystal that form a polymer network.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn because Kawaga et al., Sekin et al., and Hiji et al., whether taken individually or in combination, neither teach nor suggest the novel combination of features clearly recited in amended independent claim 1, and hence dependent claims 12-18 and 22.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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